

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03272 221358Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 FPC-01 TRSY-06 EB-08 COME-00
INT-05 IO-14 /114 W
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R 221138Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9470
INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 3272

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CZ, HU, ECIN, EWWT, ENRG
SUBJECT: CZECH-HUNGARIAN LEADERSHIP AGREES ON JOINT DAM PROJECT

REF: BUDAPEST 3248 (NOTAL)

1. THE MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AGREEMENT TO COME OUT OF
CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT HUSAK'S VISIT TO HUNGARY
SEPTEMBER 14-16 WAS THE DECISION TO BUILD THE NAGYMAROS-
GABCIKOVO DAM SYSTEM ON THE DANUBE. THIS PROJECT, WHICH
IS DESIGNED BOTH TO IMPROVE NAVIGATION ON A SHALLOW
SECTION OF THE DANUBE AND TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY, IS
DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL IN THE SEPTEMBER 20 EDITION OF
NEPXZABADSAG.

2. PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS OF THE SYSTEM WILL INCLUDE A DAM
AT DUNAKILITI (APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES DOWNSTREAM FROM
BRATISLAVA), WHICH WILL FORM A LARGE LAKE REQUIRING A LEVEE
SYSTEM BACK UP TO BRATISLAVA, AND A 12-MILE WATER CHANNEL
TO GABCIKOVO, WHERE LOCKS AND A SLUICE AND POWER PLANT
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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 03272 221358Z

WILL BE CONSTRUCTED. A DAM WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED
ABOVE NAGYMAROS AND VISEGRAD, WITH ACCOMPANYING POWER
PLANT AND LOCKS. PREPARATION WORK WILL BEGIN IN 1978,
THE FIRST TURBINE WILL BEGIN OPERATION AT GABCIKOVO IN
1986, AND THE FINAL TURBINE IN NAGYMAROS WILL BEING
OPERATION IN 1990. COSTS -- AND OUTPUT OF ELECTRICITY --
ARE TO BE EQUALLY SHARED BY HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

NO INDICATION OF THE EXPECTED COST OF THIS MAJOR PROJECT WAS GIVEN.

3. THE SYSTEM WILL PERMIT PASSAGE OF LARGER SHIPS ON THIS PORTION OF THE DANUBE, IMPROVING HUNGARIAN ACCESS TO THE INTRA-EUROPEAN WATERWAY NETWORKS, ESPECIALLY AFTER COMPLETION OF THE DANUBE-RHINE-MAIN CANAL. EXPECTED ELECTRICAL CAPACITY OF THE GABCIKOVO POWER PLANT WILL BE 720 MW, AND THAT OF NAGYMAROS 160 MW, FOR AN ANNUAL TOTAL ENERGY OUTPUT OF 3.6 BILLION KILOWATT HOURS (THUS HUNGARY'S SHARE WILL BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF 1976 ELECTRICAL POWER GENERATION OF 22 BILLION KWH).

4. PLANS FOR THIS PROJECT WERE FIRST DRAWN UP AS EARLY AS 1964, ACCORDING TO NEPSZABADSAG. AT LEAST TWO NEWSPAPER ARTICLES EARLIER THIS YEAR STATED THAT NO FIRM DATES HAD BEEN SET FOR THIS PROJECT; BOTH ALSO CITED SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER POTENTIAL ELECTRICAL OUTPUT FIGURES. IT THUS APPEARS POSSIBLE -- ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY HAS NO FIRM INDICATION OF THIS -- THAT THE DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE DAM SYSTEM AT THIS TIME WAS IN PART AN EFFORT TO GIVE CONTENT TO HUSAK'S VISIT TO HUNGARY.
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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